

THE
HISTORY
OF
NATURALIZATION,

With some Remarques upon the Effects thereof, in respect
to the Religion, Trade and Safety of
His Majesties Dominions.

Printed according to Order.

THE first Notices of Naturalizing *Alien Merchants* under the name of *Endenization*, are handed to us by the Statute of the 1^{mo}. of *Henry the 7th*. cap. 2^d. in these words:

Whereas in time past divers Grants have been made by King Edward, as well by his Letters Patents, as by Acts of Parliament to divers Merchant Strangers born out of this Realm to be Denizons, whereby they have and enjoy such Freedoms and Liberties as do Denizons born within the said Realm, as well in abatement of their Custom which they should bear, as if they were no Denizons, as in buying and selling of their Merchandize to their great avail and lucre, and oft-times suffer other Strangers, not Denizons, deceitfully to ship and carry great and notable substance of Merchandize in their names, by the which the said Goods be free of Custom: In likewise as if they were the Goods of a Denizon, where of right they ought to pay Custom as the Goods of Strangers, by the which they be greatly advanced in Riches and Honour, and after they be so enriched, for the most part they convey themselves with their said Goods into their own Countries wherein they be naturally born, to the great impoverishing of this Realm, and to the great hurt and defraud of the King's Highness in payment of his Customs. Wherefore it is Enacted, Established and Ordained by the Advice of the said Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and Commons in the said Parliament assembled, and by the Authority of the same, That any person made or hereafter to be made Denizon, shall pay for his Merchandize like Custom and Subsidy as he ought or should pay before that he were made Denizon, any Letters Patents or other Ordinances by Parliament or otherwise notwithstanding.

And to the same purpose is the Statute of 11th. *Henry 7th*. cap. 14th.

And to the like purpose is the Statute of 22th. *Henry the 8th*. cap. 8^h.

During the Reigns of *Edward the 6th*. *Queen Mary*, and *Queen Elizabeth*, nothing is recorded touching Naturalization. But when *King James* happily added the Diadem of *Scotland* to this of *England*, so cautious were our Ancestors, that they would never admit the then Natives of *Scotland*, though His Majesties Subjects, to the privilege that Aliens naturalized do now enjoy. And by the Statute the 7th. *Jacobi*, cap. 2^d. It is provided by Parliament in these words: "For as much as the Naturalizing of Strangers, and restoring to blood, persons attainted have been ever reputed matters of meer Grace and Favour, which are not fit to be bestowed upon any others than such as are of the Religion now Established in this Realm, Be it therefore Enacted by the King's Most Excellent Majesty, the Lords Spiritual and Temporal, and the Commons in this present Parliament assembled, That person or persons of what quality, condition, or place soever, being of the Age of Eighteen years or above, shall be Naturalized or Restored in blood, unless the said person or persons have received the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper within one month before any Bill exhibited for that purpose; and also shall take the Oath of Supremacy, and the Oath of Allegiance, in the Parliament-House, before his or her Bill be twice read. And for the better effecting of the Premises, Be it further Enacted by the Authority aforesaid, That the

"Lord Chancellour of *England*, or Lord Keeper of the Great Seal for the time being, if the Bill begin in the Upper House, and the Speaker of the Commons House of Parliament for the time being, if the Bill begin there, shall have Authority at all times during the Session of Parliament to minister such Oath and Oaths, and to such person and persons as by the true intent of this Statute is to be ministered.

In the Reign of King *Charles* the First, of blessed memory, the English Merchant had a Trade to profit, so that many of them arrived to great Estates, some to 10000*l.* value, several to fifty thousand pounds Estate: And in all the Reign of King *James* and King *Charles* the First, not above Ten *Aliens Merchants* were naturalized, and those such as by long abode in *England* had merited the kindness of the Nation, and then it was rare to hear of an English Merchant that failed, so that the Clothiers then grew rich by the good payments the English Merchants made them, and the Clothing of this Kingdom was in great request abroad: And the Gentry then began to put their Sons Apprentices unto Merchants, and it was thought a very good Provision for Gentlemens youngest Sons.

O fortunati si sua bona norint.

But this growing happiness of the English Merchants was soon Ecclipsed by the late *Oliverian* Usurpers, who being fond of the *Hollanders* Coalition with us, and that failing them, those Usurpers did more greedily imbibe the opinion and practice of Naturalization, hoping thereby to weaken the *Hollanders* by drawing over numbers of Dutchmen, and so gave this singular privilege to all that ask'd it, not forbidding the Jews, but encouraging their admission and abode with us, and laid aside the said Statutes for difference in Customs, and that also of the 7th *Jacobi*. And thus the industrious English Merchant, who cannot live so poorly as a Jew, or other Aliens that lives onely in a Chamber, was much discouraged, nor was this free admission of Forein Merchants any weakening to the Dutch, or other Forein States; for there came no number of Artificers with Families, but the greatest part that came to be Naturalized, were such as rather lived like Spies, than Inhabitants amongst us: And though some hundreds of *Aliens Merchants* were then and since Naturalized, yet they are no accession of Strength or Interest to this Kingdom, nor any advance of our Lands; but on the contrary are a great cause of distraction in Religion, dangerous to the Government, and ruinous to the English Trade and Merchant.

1. That this Naturalization hath been a great cause of our distraction in Religion is evident in the Effect, and the worthy Author of the compassionate Enquiry amongst the Causes of the neglect and contempt of our Religion brings in Judaism, and this pretence of the enlargement of Trade, as two of the Causes, it being, saith that Authour most remarkably true of the English, that their good nature prompts them to look and think favourably of such things as they see in request with others, and from thence they proceed to affect the Novelty, or at least become unstable in their own Religion. And when the said Usurpers thought it convenient to make *England* an *Amsterdam* of all Religions, the admission of Forciners was a most effectual means to introduce that great diversity of Opinions amongst us, which hath ever since abated mens zeal for, and reverence of our Established Religion; and its worthy Observation, that not onely the Jews, but those of all other Nations who have obtained this privilege, do no way incorporate with the English, but continue a distinct body in all Ecclesiastical Affairs, not only in their own persons, but also in their children to after generations.

2. This introducing of *Merchants Aliens* is dangerous to the Government, for Aliens will not have their Affections changed, nor their Alliances extinguished by Naturalization, for it is engraven in every man's heart with indelible Characters, ever to love his Native Soil and Country best, witness the late Wars we had with *Holland* and *France*, what advices, what amusing Stories at the Coffee-houses, weakening the hands of His Majesties Subjects, by misreporting all our Naval Actions, and it hath ever been found, that a *Babel* in Languages begets confusion in Kingdoms, and tendeth to beget fear and diffidence amongst the Natural born Subjects.

3. This favour to Aliens is ruinous to the English Trade and English Merchant, for before this Naturalization, the English Merchants had many Forein Commissions very advantageous to them, which these Aliens now enjoy; and the English had Factories settled in all Countries, and by these Factories influenced and governed the Trade of the world, these Factors were honourable to our Nation, encouragers of our Manufactories, and a great Addition to the Capital Stock of the Kingdom by the great Estates they generally gained abroad and brought home amongst us. By these Factories the English became acquainted with the Secrets and Myteries of other Kingdoms, and the Youth of our Nation bred in Merchandize, had many great opportunities beyond that of other Gentlemen Travellers, to be instructed in the works of God and man, of Nature and of Art to enlarge their minds as well as their fortunes, to be inured to hardship and danger, and instructed in subtilty, and all the Arts of living and self-security. But since this particular Naturalization of *Merchants Aliens*, our Factories

our Factories in *France*, the *Netherlands*, *Holland*, and the best part in *Portugall*, are ruined, and the *French*, *Flandrians*, *Dutch* and *Portugals* have so far gained this point of us since this Naturalization, as that they have set up Factories here in *England*, and the *Italians* have attempted the like also to the great spoil of our English Trade and Merchants.

This Encouragement to *Aliens* is but a transplanting the Trade from Natives to *Aliens*, for *Aliens* naturalized, beside the cheapness of living here as Lodgers, have four or five *per Cent.* advantage in Trade above the Natives, by the Interest of money wherewith they Trade, and by having the Commission of all their Kindred and Friends abroad, so that the ancient distinction of one fourth part in Customs upon *Aliens* naturalized more than English, doth but put the English upon equal terms in Trade with these *Aliens*.

The English Merchants have both inclinations and stock sufficient to drive the Trade of this Kingdom, and the encrease of *Aliens Merchants* is but the decrease and ruine of Natives; for before this frequent Naturalization there was no complaint of the want of People amongst us, and although these *Aliens* naturalized, and all other *Aliens* by the *Statute 25. of his Majesties Reign*, are to pay no other Customs for any of the Native Commodities of this Realm Exported, than are paid by His Majesties Natural-born Subjects, yet its found by Experience that they Export very little of our *English Manufactories*, but generally make their returns by paying money in Exchange beyond Sea for the Toyes and Baubles they bring us, and they no way encrease the Consumption of our Provisions by their Families, for those that come to be naturalized, are not any considerable number of Artificers with their Families, but are *Merchants*, and are one of a Tribe, two of a Town, and five or six of a Province fitted instruments to carry on the designs of their Employers, and the greatest part of them are not intended to inhabit with us, but like Summer Birds when they have filled their Pockets, or if trouble or War arise, they will not forget their Fathers Land, and in such case hereafter, as formerly, may be instruments of great inconvenience to His Majesty and His Natural-Born Subjects.

The advantages to the Nation by this particular Naturalization have been loudly proclaimed, as being the onely way to encrease His Majesties Subjects, advance Trade, and to raise the price of Lands, but as hitherto it hath had no such effect. So it will never produce any such or other advantage to this Kingdom, unless it could be presumed that the liberal offer of this priviledge had vertue and power in it to bring in such Persons for Number and Quality as the Kingdom may seem to stand in need of; but as hath been said, few or none of those come to accept these priviledges, but such onely come as have designs upon the Kingdom for their own advantage; and their practices have been and will be according to their Principles and Interests, for of the great number of Merchants that have been admitted, not twelve of them have purchased Lands in *England*, nor fifteen of them intermarried with *English* amongst us; few of them live otherwise than as Lodgers, and divers *Aliens* having got Credit amongst us have broke much indebted unto the *English*, who are constantly loofers by them, but their own Country-men are better treated, it being the Principle of many of these *Aliens* to preserve the Capital Stock of their own Countreys: for they use to set up one, and make him great in Credit, and then he breaks indebted to the *English*, but salves his own Countrymen, and then they set up another as hath been instanced in several of these *Alien Merchants* one after another.

Thus endeth the first part of the History of Naturalization, whereby it appears that we have been abused by these *Aliens*, for those who should come and be beneficial to us, are not with us, and those that have & do come are prejudicial to us. It remains therefore that all true Englishmen joyn in their supplications, that Provision may be made to encourage Gentlemens Sons in Merchandize, and that according to the President of the aforesaid Statutes this mischief be speedily retrieved, not by forbidding *Aliens* from a peaceable Abode and Trade amongst us, but by maintaining the ancient and equal difference between them and Natives, by making all *Aliens* born liable to *Aliens Customs* for their Toyes and Baubles and other Merchandize which they shall import, or that at least those who are either Papiists or Infidels, those who have got this priviledge by indirect means and all those *Aliens Merchants* who have no Family amongst us, but live in Chambers as Lodgers, may loose their priviledge of Naturalization. And that it may be Provided for by a Law, That no *Aliens Merchant* be hereafter admitted to the Priviledge of Naturalization, until they have lived as *Dezizons* by His Majesties Letters, Patents, a certain number of years amongst us, or until they have intermarried with English, or Purchased Lands upon their Denization, or otherwise merited is Majesties Favour and Bounty by some signal Service.

If it be Objected, That there is an Experiment which may be more safely trusted to than Argument, in that the *Hollanders* by the universal admission of all *Foreigners* unto equal Priviledge with Natives have arrived to a great Trade, and thereby to Riches and Strength beyond other Nations.

The Answer is, The *Hollanders* are only strong in Shipping, which are Man'd by the Natives of the Country. But how easily were they vanquished at Land, when the *French* for asking, got so much of their Country ; and the Reason is plain, for all *Foreigners* are but as *Sojourners*, and had rather change there Governours then venture either their Persons or Estates when troubles come.

The *Hollanders* are necessitated to give a free tolleration of all Religions, without which *Foreigners* will not joyn themselves in numbers to that or any other Nation.

The *Hollanders* have no Lands to live upon, nor other wayes then that of Trade to advance their Industrious and ingenious Youth, and so all their Estates descend from Fathers to Sons in Trade and Merchandize, and so need not fear the loosing of their Trade of Merchandizes by the Accession of *Foreigners*.

But in *England* we have Lands to live upon, and have several other wayes for advancing Ingenious and Industrious Persons, besides that good way of Merchandizing, and if through frequent Naturalization of *Alien Merchants* the Trade of Merchandizing in *England* become a poor picquering Trade (as it will quickly be if *Foreigners* be equal in Priviledges with *English*), then all our Gentry, and men of Estates and Ingenuity, will leave Merchandizing unto *Foreigners* ; and betake themselves to the more profitable Employments of the Court, the Camp, Divinity, the Law and Physick : And so in a short time we shall loose the Trade of Merchandizing, which is the Mistress of the World, by the mistaken methods we pursue in the Courtship of her.

